

RESPONSE

A. Status of the Claims

Claims 40-81 were pending at the time of the Restriction Requirement, with claims 1-39 having been canceled in the Preliminary Amendment filed with the application. Claims 69-81 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, as being drawn to a non-elected invention in view of the election of the Group I invention made below in response to the Restriction Requirement. Therefore, claims 40-68 are pending and presently under consideration in the case.

B. Response to Restriction Requirement

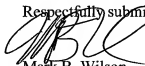
In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants elect, *without traverse*, to prosecute the Group I invention, as exemplified by claims 40-68, drawn to a method for manipulating a sample. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the Group II claims, or any other claims supported by the specification, in any continuing application.

C. Conclusion

Applicants believe this paper to be a full and complete response to the Restriction Requirement dated November 26, 2007. Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration of this case in view of the above comments and amendments.

Should the Examiner have any questions, comments, or suggestions relating to this case, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned Applicants' representative at (512) 536-3035.

Respectfully submitted,



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